

[22 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

**Cost of production of major food crops**

2895. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost of production of major food crops has gone up during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details of the cost of production, crop-wise during the last five years; and

(c) what have been the procurement price/support price of these crops during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Cost of production of crops depends on cost of cultivation and productivity. Accordingly in case the productivity increases at a higher rate than the increase in cost of cultivation, the cost of production may actually decline. Conversely the cost of production may increase. Seen over a period of time, the cost of production shows a fluctuating pattern.

(b) The information is being compiled and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) The Minimum Support Price of major food crops is given below.

*Minimum Support Price of Major Food Crops*

(Unit = Rs./Qtl.)

Year	Paddy	Wheat	Gram
1995-96	360 (Common)	380	700
	375 (Fine)		
	395 (Superfine)		
1996-97	380 (Common)	475*	740
	395 (Fine)		
	415 (Superfine)		
1997-98	415 (Common)	510*	815
	445 (Grade 'A')		

Year	Paddy	Wheat	Gram
1998-99	440 (Common) 470 (Grade 'A')	550	895
1999-2000	490 (Common) 520 (Grade 'A')	580	1015

\*Including a Central Bonus of Rs. 60.00/Qtl. payable upto 30th June, 1997.

\*\*Including a Central Bonus of Rs. 55.00/Qtl. payable from 1-1-98 to 30-6-98.

### Enquiry against DG, ICAR

2896. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) was indicted by a Vigilance Committee over the purchase of a computer system and on the CBI recommendations he was removed from his post while the inquiry was pending;

(b) if so, whether the Vigilance Committee's inquiry report has been sent to the CBI or CVC; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Allegations against the Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have been enquired into by Sh. Bhaskar Barua, formerly Secretary, Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation who has since taken voluntary retirement from Government service on 26th February, 2001. The report is under process.

### Problem of Indebtedness among Farmers

2897. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee has been appointed by Government to study the problem of indebtedness among farmers in the country; and